



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

late in the afternoon I became entrapped, and had to chance a slide down a limestone ledge of about 12 feet. A projection caught my left hand and broke one of the metacarpal bones in the palm of the hand, with a loud snap and much pain.

And this is why, my dear readers, being confined to camp, I have found the time out of our busy life, to scribble these lines for the GAZETTE. The doubtful ferns have been forwarded to Prof. Eaton for determination, and we hope next winter to be able to send out from our herbarium in Oakland, Cal., several new ferns gathered from our Colossal Fern Album.—*Huachuca Mts., Arizona.*

Latent Vitality of Seeds.—In the current number of the *Am. Jour. Sci.* Dr. Gray gives some account of the recent experiments of Van Tieghem and G. Bonnier to ascertain the effect of different conditions on the latent vitality of seed. Several packets of seeds, in January, 1880, were divided into three equal parts and placed under the following conditions: One was exposed to free air but screened from dust; another in closed air, being tightly corked up in a tube; the third in pure carbonic acid. At the end of two years the seeds were taken out, weighed and sown. The seeds exposed to free air had gained in weight; those in closed air had gained a very little; while those in carbonic acid gas hardly varied from their original weight. In regard to their germination, over 90 per cent. of the peas and beans kept in the free air germinated; 45 per cent. of the peas and only 2 per cent. of the beans kept in closed air germinated; while of those exposed to carbonic acid gas not one showed any vitality. In conclusion Dr. Gray remarks: "If the full course of experiments gives such results, it will (we should say) be made clear, 1st, that the vegetable embryo in the seed is not strictly speaking latent, but is doing some work, however little, is keeping up a respiration, which is essential to its continued life. 2, That the life of seeds cannot be indefinitely prolonged. *Very old* seeds exposed to the air must be dead by exhaustion, and those deeply buried, by suffocation; and the numerous recorded cases of the germination of ancient seeds are more and more to be distrusted.

***Trifolium hybridum*, L.**—This species of *Trifolium* was found growing at Montreal in August, and though perhaps not permanently established, yet deserves a place in our flora. The description of the species as given in Hooker's "Students' Flora of the British Islands," is given below, as it may be of use to identify the plant when found. It seems to be often introduced into England with the ordinary *T. repens*, and occasionally replaces it.

"*T. hybridum*, L.; almost glabrous, leaflets obovate or oblong, stipules oblong, tips triangular, heads axillary peduncled globose, pedicels elongate at length reflexed, flowers drooping, calyx-tube

campanulate gibbous, teeth subulate nearly equal unaltered in fruit."—The flowers are white with a faint rosy tinge. The peduncles are not nearly so long as the *T. repens*, with which it might by a hasty glance be confounded. It has been recorded before as found on the ballast heaps of New York City in *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club*, VI. p. 356. A careful search in other localities may result in its discovery.—JOS. F. JAMES, *Cincinnati*.

Aralia racemosa, L.—I have lately found a specimen of this species which was so large as to deserve mention. There were four stalks springing from the root, two of them each about an inch in diameter at the base. The largest was six feet high and had some of the top broken off. The leaves were about three feet in length and the leaflets very large. The fruit hung in clusters from 15 to 18 inches in length, and the bright red of the ripe berries made it a very attractive plant. The vigorous growth of the plant was of special notice. Gray gives no size for it, but Wood says its height is from three to four feet, but in the present plant, it must have been between seven and eight before the top was broken off.—J. F. JAMES, *Cincinnati, O.*

Notulæ Exiguæ.—I should be glad if any botanists who possess my handbook would make the necessary correction in regard to the transmission of labels. The new ruling practically excludes any label that one would care to send out, and the express companies will thrive at the expense of the Department.

Your note on the catalepsy of *Physostegia Virginiana* should contain a reference to the manner of the action. The flowers are made to assume their definite position by friction of the pedicels against the subtending bracts. Remove the bracts and they at once fall limp. This was shown me by Prof. Goodale in 1879.

Among a lot of fresh growing plants sent me last spring by Mr. Joseph Jackson of Millbury, Mass., I find a specimen of *Trilium erectum* with two vigorous flowering stalks arising from the same rootstock and with a common sheath of scales. I have a *Cypripedium acaule* in like condition.

I found the larches in Franconia, N. H., badly injured by green *larvæ* which when touched stood out from the branches like the twigs, which in color they closely resembled. Prof. Packard informs me that they have also ravaged in Maine.—W. W. BAILEY, *Brown University*.

The Darwin Memorial.—No more fitting tribute can be paid to the memory of this distinguished naturalist than the Memorial proposed in the circulars sent out from the Royal Society and by the home committee of which Dr. Asa Gray is Chairman and Prof. Alexander Agassiz Treasurer. The subscription list contains the